

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12401 260834Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: US-USSR EXCHANGE OF ARTISTS: MCCALL AND SOKOLOV

REF: (A) MOSCOW 11921, (B) STATE 193932

1. IN AUGUST 25 DISCUSSION WITH P & C COUNSELOR, SOKOLOV EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT EXCHANGE AS PROPOSED REFTEL (B) WOULD MEET WITH UNION OF ARTISTS APPROVAL. HE SUGGESTED ONLY THAT FRED DURANT SEND COPIES OF THE LETTER TO THE UNION PROPOSING THE EXCHANGE ALSO TO MINISTER OF CULTURE DEMICHEV AND TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN. BOTH, HE FEELS, WOULD BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS GOING TO THE STATES AND AN EXCHANGE VISIT BY US SPACE ARTIST MCCALL.

2. SOKOLOV'S NEW CONFIDENCE SEEMS WELL BASED. HE IS (" AFTER A STRUGGLE") NOW A MEMBER OF THE ARTISTS UNION. MR. BREZHNEV HIMSELF HAS ACCEPTED ONE OF SOKOLOV'S OIL PAINTINGS OF A SOVIET SPACE EXPLOIT. HE IS CURRENTLY BUSY PAINTING A TRIPTYCH ON THE SOVIET SPACE PROGRAM ON ORDER FROM THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE FOR ITS ART SHOW SCHEDULED FOR THE MANEGE BEGINNING IN MID-OCTOBER. LASTLY, HE AND COSMONAUT LEONOV SHARE THE HONORS AT A SOVIET SPACE ART EXHIBIT WHICH WILL OPEN IN PRAGUE DURING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASTRONAUTICS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 25. WITH PERHAPS JUSTIFIED ACIDITY, SOKOLOV ALSO NOTES THAT "NOW THAT KOROLEV

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AND VOLODIN HAVE GONE TO THE STATES" THEY WOULD NOT OPPOSE HIS ACCEPTING A BONA FIDE INVITATION.

3. AS FOR MCCALL'S VISIT TO THE USSR, SOKOLOV BELIEVES HE WOULD BE MADE EXTREMELY WELCOME. THE COSMONAUTS, SCIENTISTS, ARTISTS, ILLUSTRATORS KNOW HIS WORK AND WOULD BE EAGER TO MEET THE MAN. SOKOLOV AND LEONOV WOULD DO THE LION'S SHARE OF THE

WORK IN PREPARING A "FINE SOCIAL SCHEDULE," P & C COUNSELOR WAS TOLD. SOKOLOV WILL RAISE WITH DURANT PROPOSAL THAT HE AND MCCALL ALSO EXCHANGE TRAVELLING EXHIBITS.

4. BENSON WILL CALL DURANT AFTER ARRIVING IN STATES SEPTEMBER 8, PRIOR LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW CONTACT IN MOSCOW WHOULD BE CULTURAL ATTACHE MARILYN JOHNSON.
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